

(k) and (l) Some interpellations have been put and answered. It has not been possible to find out the exact number.

Average price of paddy in the markets of the State.

316. Mr. Elkkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to give the average price of paddy in the principal markets of the State for the last 10 years?

Rao Bahadur Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—A statement containing the information is appended (*Appendix IV*).

Withdrawal of recognition of the Gothuruthy High School.

317. Mr. T.A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the recognition of the Gothuruthy High School was withdrawn by the Director of Public Instruction recently;

(b) if so, when;

(c) and what were the reasons for the same;

(d) how many times did the Manager disobey the orders of the Director;

(e) has the Manager served any notice on the Director or Government;

(f) if so, will copies of the notice be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) The recognition of the Upper Secondary Department of the school was withdrawn but subsequently the Diwan ordered that this order of the Director of Public Instruction should be held in abeyance.

(b) The order withdrawing the recognition is dated 17th January 1933.

(c) For disobedience of Government and departmental orders.

(d) Four times.

(e) No; but the Manager wanted the First Assistant in charge to serve a notice on the Director of Public Instruction, should he come to conduct the inquiry.

(f) Copy is appended. (*Appendix V*).

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When were these students sent out of the school?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I think it was somewhere about Kannur.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It is stated here that 4 times the Manager refused to obey the orders of the Director. May I know what were these four orders?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Copies of the four orders?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The purport of the orders.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The first was to admit the boys interim, pending my enquiry. The Manager said that he had appealed to the Diwan. Therefore pending the decision of the Diwan he was not prepared to obey. Second, as the power and prestige of the Director was at stake, I ordered that he must first obey my order and then appeal to the Diwan. The third one was regarding the conduct of the enquiry. He was not prepared to allow the enquiry to be conducted. The last one also was with regard to the enquiry announcing the exact date on which the enquiry should be held and he said that the interference was unwarranted according to rules and he and the Headmaster will have nothing to do with the enquiry.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was there a proceedings of the Diwan asking the Director to make an enquiry?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this proceedings sent to the Manager?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It was issued to the Manager in reply to a petition.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What were the reasons given in the order of the Diwan asking this to be held in abeyance?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The reason was that this matter involves certain legal issues which had to be cleared up and that the Manager had also sent another appeal petition and until these legal points were cleared and until the Diwan has passed final orders on the appeal, this order may be held in abeyance.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Had the Manager known that the Director was going to enquire at the instance of the Diwan?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Certainly.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Did the Director take the opinion of the Diwan before he stopped the recognition?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I cannot say that. I was under the impression that I had taken his opinion. But the Diwan told me that his orders were not quite clear. But even apart from that the Director has power to do that without reference to the Diwan.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Has the Department received any complaint from the students that the Headmaster is unfit to teach English?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That complaint was not forwarded to me. But I got a copy of the complaint.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—What is the qualification of the Headmaster?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—He is not a Graduate of the Madras University, but I think he has got a degree.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it not a rule that when a boy is dismissed the reasons for the dismissal should be written down, so that the Inspecting officers may verify them?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Certainly.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was any reason for the dismissal stated by the school authorities? Should they not keep the reasons in writing and record them?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The reason has to be recorded in the order for dismissal and in the copy communicated to the Inspecting officer and the guardian. But it so happened that in this matter no report was made to the Inspector for some time. But the Inspector received a petition from the guardian and he called for an explanation of the Manager. The Manager submitted an explanation and in it he told the reasons for the dismissal.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Who has the power to dismiss the boys, the Manager or the Headmaster?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Headmaster.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Can the Manager dismiss the boys according to the Code?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No, but the Headmaster can.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was this order issued by the Headmaster?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—All the orders are signed by the Headmaster so far as the school is concerned.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was the notice served on the Inspector when he went to inspect the institution or was it sent to him beforehand?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I had fixed the date to hold the enquiry and I asked the Inspector also to be present, because he had some of the papers connected with the file. So I asked him to be present. When I received an intimation that the Manager was not amenable to the enquiry, I decided not to go. I did not give this intimation to the Inspector and so when he went there, this order was served on him.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—This order was actually served on the Inspector as shown in Appendix V.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Did he conduct the enquiry?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Does the Inspecting officer require the sanction of the Manager to conduct the enquiry?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The point is this. The two people whose assistance was necessary in this enquiry were the Manager and the Headmaster. Neither of them were there.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—A kind of non-co-operation?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this refusal of the Manager to allow the Director to inspect the school reported to the Diwan?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the order?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The matter is pending final orders?

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—When did the Director report this, the approximate date?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I made a verbal report first and I sent a written report later on.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—I want to know the exact date on which the Director reported this matter to the Diwan.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The report about the refusal of the Manager is dated 30th January. In continuation of that I submitted another report. That was on the 2nd of February.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—May I know the reason for this delay in passing orders on the report of the Director?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—As I said at first, Government had to take legal opinion before they could pass final orders. And then there was the appeal petition from the Manager. So the party has to be heard. These things caused delay.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Has the Director of Public Instruction any authority to take disciplinary action against the insubordination of the Manager of any school, apart from the legal side of the question?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes. Otherwise I would not have taken action. It is quite obvious.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Before the recognition was withdrawn, was this matter reported to the Diwan by the Director that he was going to withdraw the recognition?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I did not make any formal report. I made simply a verbal report.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the reply of the Diwan?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The reply seems to have been misunderstood by me. I understood him to have approved of it. But he said he did not approve but wanted further reflection over it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has the Director power to withdraw recognition?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes,

Dr. A. R. Menon.—In the process of conversation it is seen that there was some misunderstanding between the Diwan and the Director of Public Instruction in relation to this matter.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No misunderstanding between us.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—But you misunderstood each other.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I cannot say that he misunderstood me. But I seem to have misunderstood him.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Where did the boys go after their dismissal?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—One to the Paliam School, Chennamangalam, and the other to Peringottukara.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How many days ago?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Nearly a month.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was there any delay in giving them transfer certificates?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No transfer certificate was issued.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Why?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Because they were dismissed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was there a formal request from the guardians for the transfer certificates?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What was the action taken by the management on the petition?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The petition here alleges that the Manager promised to withdraw his order of dismissal and that he will issue the transfer certificates, but later on—so the petition says—I have not enquired—the Manager said that the boys were dismissed and there is no reason why transfer certificates should be issued to them.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know whether the inquiry is complete?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have not made any inquiry.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Were they not students of the VI Form?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—The Director said that he has power to withdraw recognition. May I know whether it is under the provisions of the Code?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It is.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Which section, please?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I think it is under Article 14 of the Code?

The basis for increasing demand for fresh schools.

318. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Adverting to paragraph 4 of the Report of the Educational Survey, will the Government

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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APPENDIX V.

(*Wide Answer to Question No. 317.*)

Office of the St. Sebastian's High
School, Gothuruthy,
10th January 1933.

MEMO.

Since the Headmaster is on leave to-day Mr. P. J. John Konnoth, the first Assistant will be in charge of the school. He is directed to inform the Director of Public Instruction or the Inspector of Schools that the Manager has serious objection against any enquiry by them into the matter of the recent dismissal from this school of the two boys who were studying in Form VI, if any of them intends conducting such an enquiry.

(Sd).

Manager.

To

Mr. P. John Konnoth,
First Assistant.

True copy handed over to the Acting Inspector, Southern Division

(Sd). First Assistant.

27-5-1108.

(True copy)